



### Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

1-6 (canceled)

7. (currently amended) An isolated polynucleotide encoding a  $\tau$  subunit or a  $\gamma$  subunit of a DNA polymerase III-type enzyme of a thermophilic bacterium, ~~the  $\tau$  subunit comprising a GXXGXGKT ATP binding motif and possessing ATP binding capability~~, wherein said isolated polynucleotide ~~hybridizes to the complement of~~ is at least 90 percent identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3 under hybridization and wash conditions comprising 5X SSC at 65°C.

8. (previously presented) An isolated polynucleotide according to Claim 7, wherein the polynucleotide comprises a nucleotide sequence encoding said amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

9-21 (canceled)

22. (previously presented) A vector comprising a polynucleotide according to claim 7.

23-27 (canceled)

28. (previously presented) A host cell comprising the vector according to Claim 22.

29. (original) The host cell according to Claim 28, wherein the host cell is a prokaryotic cell.

30-80 (canceled)

81. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the polynucleotide is at least 95 percent identical to the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

82. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the polynucleotide has the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 3.

83. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is at least 90 percent identical to the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

84. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is at least 95 percent identical to the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:2.

85. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is at least 90 percent identical to the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

86. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is at least 95 percent identical to the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:4.

87. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is SEQ ID NO:4.

88. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is at least 90 percent identical to the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

89. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is at least 95 percent identical to the amino acid residue sequence of SEQ ID NO:5.

90. (new) The isolated polynucleotide according to claim 7, wherein the amino acid sequence encoded by the polynucleotide is SEQ ID NO:5.